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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

3 March 2014

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### **NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY (NOA); LOW THREAT GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2013-0074; PG&E VALVE PROJECT V-067; SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

Our office received a Notice of Intent (NOI) on 25 February 2014 from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) (Discharger) for its valve replacement project V-067. Based on the information in the NOI, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff has determined that the project meets the required conditions for approval under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order). This project is hereby assigned Low Threat General Order R5-2013-0074-141 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAG995001. Please reference unique Order R5-2013-0074-141 in all future correspondence and documents.

The Low Threat General Order (enclosed) may be viewed at the following web address: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf). You are urged to familiarize yourself with the contents of the entire document. The Low Threat General Order prescribes mandatory discharge monitoring requirements. The project activities shall be operated in accordance with the requirements contained in this NOA, the Low Threat General Order, and with the information submitted by the Discharger.

#### **CALIFORNIA TOXICS RULE / STATE IMPLEMENTATION POLICY MONITORING**

The Low Threat General Order incorporates the requirements of the California Toxics Rule (CTR) and the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board), *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California, 2005*, also known as the State Implementation Policy (SIP).

Screening levels for CTR constituents are found in Attachment B of the Low Threat General Order. Review of your water quality data in comparison to the CTR screening values showed no reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an instream exceedance of the CTR criteria to the Walthall Slough, which is tributary to the San Joaquin River.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project (known as "V-067") is located at 5653 West Ripon Road in Manteca, California and consists of installing an automated gas isolation valve, and constructing an underground concrete vault to house the valve. This project is part of a State-mandated (CPUC) pipeline safety improvement program which requires a set number of automated valves to be installed each year. The project location sits on a shallow groundwater table (5-10 feet below ground surface). In order to maintain a dry excavation for worker safety and to allow for the concrete to cure and harden, a system of up to eight groundwater wells will need to be installed and will be continually dewatered (24/7) for a period of approximately two months. The initial drawdown of the wells is estimated to be up to 800 gallons per minute (gpm), then will likely decrease once the required water level is achieved. The project is expected to begin in March 2014 and be completed in May 2014.

PG&E will reuse the groundwater by providing water to an irrigation pipeline owned by the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID). The groundwater supplied at this outfall location will contribute to an active irrigation water source and provide for beneficial reuse during the extreme drought conditions being experienced in California. Groundwater will be consolidated in tanks staged near the valve lot to allow for sedimentation. Additional bag filtration is proposed prior to discharge. PG&E will supply groundwater to a SSJID irrigation pipeline located approximately 2,000 feet to the north of the site. SSJID has indicated that the additional flow from the proposed PG&E supply will enable SSJID to reduce their draw on reserve water in upstream storage facilities. Groundwater will be provided pursuant to an agreement with SSJID, which will issue a temporary permit prior to initiation of discharge.

PG&E will construct a temporary PVC pipeline from the staging area to the SSJID lateral inlet. The SSJID lateral supplies water from various sources to private irrigation systems in the area. Any remaining water in the lateral flows to an irrigation drainage canal located about 4,000 feet north of the site, where it is combined with flood irrigation runoff and other surface drainage. The drainage canal flows to the Walthall Slough. The Walthall Slough is not listed as an impaired surface water under the Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The Discharger must notify Central Valley Water Board staff 24 hours 1) before the start of each new discharge, 2) as soon as noncompliance is anticipated, and 3) when the discharge ceases.

The Discharger shall monitor the effluent as required in Attachment E of the Low Threat General Order for discharges less than four months in duration. Since the discharge is to an underground pipe, receiving water monitoring is infeasible and thus not required for this project. The Discharger must submit quarterly reports, as described in Attachment E, Section X of the Low Threat General Order, even if there is no discharge during the reporting quarter, until the Discharger formally requests that coverage under the Order be terminated. The first quarterly report is due by 1 May 2014, and is to cover the period of 1 January through 31 March 2014.

Although the arsenic concentration for the proposed discharge submitted as part of the NOI did not exceed the screening level in Table B-1 of the Low Threat General Order, elevated concentrations of arsenic are documented to exist in the groundwater in the vicinity of the discharge. Section 13267 of the California Water Code provides that the Regional Water Board

may require technical reports of dischargers to state waters. Due to concerns with elevated concentrations of arsenic in groundwater, in accordance with Section 13267 of the California Water Code, the Discharger must monitor the effluent for arsenic one time per month and submit the results with the quarterly reports.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The required annual fee (as specified in the annual billing you will receive from the State Water Resources Control Board) shall be submitted until the discharge is terminated. To terminate coverage under the Low Threat General Order, the Discharger must submit written notification to the Central Valley Water Board that the discharge regulated by this Low Threat General Order has ceased and is no longer necessary. If a timely written request is not received, then the Discharger will be required to pay additional annual fees as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

Failure to comply with the Low Threat General Order may result in enforcement actions, which could include civil liability. Effluent limitation violations are subject to a Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) of \$3,000 per violation. Late reports may be subject to an MMP of \$3,000 for each period of 30 days late. When discharges do not occur during a quarterly monitoring period, the Discharger must still submit a quarterly report indicating that no discharge occurred to avoid being subject to enforcement actions.

### **COMMUNICATION**

All monitoring report submittals, notification of the beginning and end of discharge, and questions regarding compliance and enforcement shall be directed to Mohammad Farhad of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Compliance and Enforcement Unit. Mr. Farhad can be reached at (916) 464-1181 or Mohammad.Farhad@waterboards.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the permitting aspects of this Low Threat General Order, and written notification for termination of coverage under the Low Threat General Order, shall be directed to Jim Marshall of the Central Valley Water Board's NPDES Permitting Unit. Mr. Marshall can be reached at (916) 464-4772 or James.Marshall@waterboards.ca.gov.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board to review the action in accordance with California Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this NOA, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

***Original Signed by  
Richard Loncarovich for***

Pamela C. Creedon  
Executive Officer

Jeffery Smyly  
Water Quality Manager  
PG&E Valve Project V-067

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Enclosure: General Order R5-2013-0074-141 (Discharger only)

cc: Dave Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco  
Phil Isorena, Division of Water Quality, State Water Board, Sacramento